

A COLLECTION OF MOLLUSCA FROM THE BELGIAN CONGO.

By G. C. SPENCE.

(Read before the Society, 9th June, 1920).

THROUGH the courtesy of Mr. J. W. Jackson the above Collection, made during 1918 and 1919 by our member, Mr. F. M. Dyke, has been entrusted to me for investigation. The number of specimens is not large, but they are mainly in fine condition. It soon became apparent that there was a number of novelties and these were being worked up when, most opportunely, Dr. Pilsbry's work on Congo Mollusca¹ was issued. It was then found that all these novelties were therein described and figured. Mr. Dyke has made full and careful notes, and the particulars given hereafter are from information kindly supplied by him.

Collections were made at the following places :—

- (1) Leverville, District du Kwango, at the junction of rivers Kwenge and Kwilu. Approximate situation, $5^{\circ}10'S$; $18^{\circ}40'E$.
- (2) Tango, Dt. du Kwango, on right bank of Kwilu some 40 km. north of Leverville. $4^{\circ}40'S$; $18^{\circ}35'E$.
- (3) Boteke, Dt. de l'Equateur, a small native village on R. Ruki. $0^{\circ}12'S$; $18^{\circ}55'E$.
- (4) Elizabetha, Dt. d'Aruwimi, on R. Congo opposite Basoko. $1^{\circ}12'N$; $23^{\circ}40'E$.
- (5) Iboro Island, a long narrow island (some $20 \times 1/1\frac{1}{2}$ km.) about 15/20 km. above Elizabetha and opposite Yalamba on right bank of Congo. About $1^{\circ}8'N$; $23^{\circ}55'E$.
- (6) Alberta, nr. Bumba, Dt. de Bangalas. Bumba's position $2^{\circ}10'N$; $22^{\circ}30'E$.

Boteke "was the best by far for collecting . . . the position is of some interest; near the Equator, there is an equable temperature and well distributed rainfall throughout the year."

"I have been very struck with the paucity of molluscs in palm forests and have wondered whether the dryness of the soil had anything to do with this. The palm is essentially a surface feeder and one rarely finds real forest trees in quantity growing with the palms. At all events, the shells taken in palm growing districts were usually found under leaves, &c., in patches of undergrowth away from the immediate neighbourhood of the palms (*Elæis guineensis*). I have

¹ "A Review of the Land Molluscs of the Belgian Congo, chiefly based on the collection, the Amer. Mus. Congo Expedition, 1909/15," in Bull. A.M.N.H., vol. xl, 1919.

found one or two dead shells round the roots of palms in the course of three years' experience."

In this connection it will be remembered that certain habitats in Britain are not favoured by molluscs, e.g., heather and bracken—also pine woods in which the ground is often bare and covered with fallen needles.

The following species were collected along with a few more which owing to condition or juvenility it is impossible to identify :

LEVERVILLE.

Limicolaria læta Thiele, sub. sp. **medjensis**, Pils. "On sandy grass plain." Epiphragm pearly with knife-like slit in upper angle.

Limicolaria distincta Putzeys. "In considerable numbers after rain, crawling on sandy paths and in elephant grass."

Subulina thysvillensis Pils. "Amongst soil in leaf bases of oil palms."

Aetheria elliptica Lam. "The common fresh water edible 'oyster,' occurring in beds, especially on the northern bend of R. Congo from Lisala to Basoko. In many parts the shells are collected and burnt for lime for building purposes." Several fine examples (from R. Kwilu) with well developed tubular spines, showing the aptness of Sowerby's name *tubifera* applied to this species, but now relegated to synonymy.

TANGO.

Limicolaria distincta Putzeys. In grass by road side.

BOTEKE.

Homorus (Subulona) ischnus Pils.

Subulina angustior (Dohrn).

Pseudoglessula (Kempioconcha) leopoldvillensis Pils.

Pseudoglessula (Ischnoglessula) subfuscidula Pils. A beautiful dark little species with whitish columella margin.

Curvella ovata Putzeys.

Ptychotrema (Parennea) æquatoriale Pils. Under dead wood in damp undergrowth.

Gulella lævigata (Dohrn).

Mesafricanion (Belonarion) putzeysi Pils. One fragmentary example which I cannot definitely determine but which agrees with description—especially as to colour and the white, glittering first whorl.

All except *P. æquatoriale* "in moist damp wood in high forest."

ELIZABETHA.

Achatina schweinfurthi Mts. By native paths.

Ceras manyemaense Dup. and Putz. In grass by native path.

One, in fine condition, of this rare shell agreeing with the author's description in all except colour, which (light brown with dark streaks) resembles *C. dautzenbergi* D. & P.

**Pseudoglessula (Kempio-
concha) hessei** (Bttg.)

Thapsia rufescens Pils.

Ledoulxia mozambicensis
(Pfr.)

} In grass beside bush path.

Mesafricarion haliotides (Putzeys). Amongst grass. One spirit specimen which I submitted to Dr. W. E. Collinge, who kindly confirms my identification.

Pleuroprocta silvatica Pils. Amongst grass. Two spirit specimens—not full grown.

IBORO ISLAND.

Perideriopsis mvuluensis D. & P. On leaves of shrubs. One slightly immature example. Not typical, colour being creamy with narrow ill-defined dark band below suture.

Ledoulxia mozambicensis (Pfr.) On leaves of shrub—
sp. unknown.

ALBERTA.

Limicolaria walkeri mut. **nudata** Pils. Swarming on *Iris* sp. in gardens. No striped typical ones.

At BARUMBA, Aruwimi Dist., one dark juvenile **Burtoa nilotica** (Pfr.) was found "in broken wood at foot of tree in bush."

H. hortensis var. **arenicola**, near **Sittingbourne**.—For the past two years there has been a large colony of this variety on a wall near Sittingbourne; with one exception, every specimen I have seen has been of the band formula (12345), which is otherwise very rare in the neighbourhood. I have never seen a specimen of the typical colouration in this colony, the only specimen with a different band formula was one (12) (345). The wall is a red brick one, on the edge of a pavement, the only vegetation on it being ivy and a few lichens. It is also the only locality near Sittingbourne for the scarce red variety of the moth *Bryophila perla*.
—H. C. HUGGINS (*Read before the Society*, Nov. 10th, 1920).